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	Sommario/riassunto	This is the first volume in the new Springer Major Reference Work series entitled Coloproctology. The book covers key topics in the anatomy and physiology of the colon, rectum and anus and the diagnosis of colorectal/anal diseases and disorders. It thus forms a sound basis for further volumes in the series that will focus on the treatment of more specific clinical conditions. The subjects addressed in the volume are crucial to effective patient management and the book highlights the fact that adequate diagnostic assessment of a given disease is

significantly related to the pathophysiologic interpretation of the pathologic process. The purpose of the volume is to provide readers with up-to-date knowledge on colorectal and anal anatomy and physiology, particularly from a treatment perspective and to describe the methodology to be employed in choosing the best diagnostic work-up in coloproctology.